

AL-IV-A-144  
AL-IV-144

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Downtown or Baltimore Street

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☒ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☒ COMMERCIAL ☒ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS  
☒ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1972, 1975

—FEDERAL ☒ —STATE ☐ —COUNTY ☐ —LOCAL ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Downtown/Baltimore Street district, located in the central business district of Cumberland, is a densely built area of mostly two, three, and four-story brick buildings. Much of the detailing and ornamentation are in stone. Decoration abounds in bracketed cornices, sculptured lion heads, heavily ornamented keystones, and low relief sculpture applied to buildings. The district which is bounded by gaps, parking lots, and incompatible buildings, has few major intrusions within it (with the exception of altered first-floor commercial facades, and the inappropriate parklets of inappropriate scale and material).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The visual character of the Central Business District is dominated by the outstanding turn-of-the-century commercial architecture of Baltimore Street. A variety of revival styles makes this street a microcosm of turn-of-the-century American commercial architecture.

The Downtown/Baltimore Street district is the architecturally superior commercial section of the City of Cumberland. The architecture ranges in age from mid nineteenth-century buildings through various Vircotian revival styles to twentieth century chain stores. It is representative of the total spectrum of commercial architecture in Cumberland.

The earliest surviving building on Baltimore Street stands at 29-33 Baltimore Street. It is a 2½ story brick building with modern shop fronts. The upper levels of this building and the west side of the attached building on South Mechanic Street have been completely covered with stucco and have few windows--none on the Baltimore Street side. Early photographs show that the building had shop fronts along Baltimore Street on the first floor and six windows on the upper story; and four windows on the upper floor of the Mechanic Street side. (G-1) (See Appendix) The building is threatened with demolition. (See Appendix) Built tightly to the south of the attached structure is the Klawahn Building, a three-story Romanesque style structure which has been inappropriately remodeled in recent years. The phony cedar mansard roof at the first level and the new standard size windows on the second floor damage the historic character of this 1912 commercial building by Wright Butler.2 (G-1)

The Klawahn Building at 10 South Mechanic Street was used by the Majestic Theatre between 1912 and 1914. In 1914 it became a combination bowling alley/pool-room. The second floor was used as a meeting place by the Odd Fellows, a fraternal organization and also served as an armory during World War II. In the early part of the twentieth century, boxing matches were held on the third floor.

In the middle of the block between South Mechanic and South Centre Streets is the Coyle Building. (G-2) Photographs dating from the 1890's indicate that this late nineteenth-century building has undergone few major changes on the upper levels. The three-story, bracketed corniced, brick building extends eight bays along Baltimore Street. Only two of the windows retain their original label moulds. Sometime in the early twentieth century the large arched and rectangular windows were added on the eastern portion of the building.3 Some of the windows retain their original 4/4 sash windows. As in most commercial buildings, the first floor has been altered and divided into many separate shops. There are a variety of different signs and metal and glass fronts. None is particularly pleasing although they

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Art Work of Allegany County, Maryland, Parish Publishing Company, 1897 and photographic collection of Herman J. Miller.
2. City of Cumberland, Building Permit #3177.
3. Photographic collection of Herman J. Miller  
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Downtown/Baltimore Street district has the following boundaries:

north--the northern side of Bedford Street from the Bell Tower Building located at the intersection of North Liberty and Bedford Streets to the rear property lines on the east side of North Centre Street and to the rear property lines on the north side of Baltimore Street to the east side of George Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Genevieve P. Keller

ORGANIZATION

Land and Community Associates

DATE

July 19, 1976

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1410 Holly Road

TELEPHONE

804-295-3880

CITY OR TOWN

Charlottesville

STATE

Virginia

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

8. SIGNIFICANCE  
Statement of Significance Continued

are certainly not the most offensive signs or facades on Baltimore Street.

The building to the east of the Coyle Building at 47 Baltimore Street is known as the Holzshv Building. The new front, a characteristic early twentieth century facade, was built after the 1919 fire destroyed the earlier Romanesque influenced facade.<sup>4</sup> The present, three-story, four-bay wide, brick facade with dropped cornice and blind detailing above the cornice is appropriate. It may be the work of either Wright Butler or George Sansbury, prominent local architects active in this period. The first floor has a later twentieth century black ceramic tile facade. (G-2)

In the same block directly to the east is the old Embassy Theatre Building which replaced a Second Empire style building in 1931. (G-3) Designed by Hodgens and Hills, a Philadelphia architectural firm, the building is one of the few Art Deco style buildings in Cumberland.<sup>5</sup> The first floor was faced with black ceramic tiles when the building was converted from a movie theatre into a clothing store. The rest of the facade remains unaltered. The upper levels are faced with flat cut stone with the composition including six pilasters--two are fluted--and topped with a low relief arch. Black marble panels alternate with windows in the vertical opening of the arch. Three metal cage-like finials--which were once lit with blue neon--top the facade. The building is an important local landmark and is of architectural significance. (See Appendix)

The rest of this block, known as the McCleave Building, originally extended thirteen bays along Baltimore Street in an uninterrupted Italianate facade like that of the six easternmost bays (the Manhattan Store part of the building). (G-4) The Lazarus store at 53 Baltimore Street is a characteristic Cumberland storefront. Four stories high, the building features a heavy, decoratively corbelled brick, dropped cornice, a five bay arcade of windows on the fourth floor, large, five-part windows on the second and third floors, and the popular, but unfortunate, black ceramic facade. This part of the McCleave block underwent its major alteration in 1899 when James Clark, a Frostburg distiller, opened a retail liquor store in the building. In 1919 as a result of Prohibition laws Clark's establishment gave way to Kline's Underselling Store, an early nineteenth century discount store.<sup>6</sup> (G-4)

The portion of the block at 57-59 Baltimore was rebuilt after the 1952 Potomac Edison Company fire. The building has a typical 1950's facade--a three-story, unornamented, brick building with a common facade on the upper levels and two divisions on the ground level to accommodate two stores. The building is unremarkable but compatible. (G-4) (See Appendix)

At 61 Baltimore Street is the remodeled facade by George Sansbury. The strong Tudor influence seen in the fenestration arrangement of the upper levels is also apparent in the Tudor revival house on Washington Street which local architect George I. Sansbury built for himself. Remodeled by Sansbury in 1929 for the Lazarus Store, it also served as headquarters for the Labor Temple, a consolidated labor organization of Western Maryland.<sup>7</sup> It is a unique element in the downtown streetscape and is important both for its architecture and its associations with labor history.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## Statement of Significance Continued

The 61 Baltimore Street portion of the McCleave Building was remodeled in 1929 from an Italianate commercial front to its present streamlined facade. Three stories high, with a polished tile shop front at street level, this building has a stone facade with iron casement window and spandrel panels on the upper level. Above the third floor windows is a crest in relief sculpture featuring the initial "L" for Lazarus on it. The three spandrel panels have a leaf motif. (G-4 and G-5) (See Appendix)

The rest of the block, 63-69 Baltimore Street, with the exception of the first floor retains its original appearance. One of the most handsome structures on Baltimore Street, this portion of the McCleave Building is a three-story, flat-roofed building with a bracketed cornice. It is one of two Italianate style buildings remaining on Baltimore Street. The Italianate style was especially favored as a suitable style for commercial buildings. The McCleave Building was used by the Cumberland Post Office between 1895 and 1904. Local architect George Sansbury had his office in this building for many years.<sup>8</sup> (G-4) Improper methods of paint removal have caused the soft brick of this building to crumble. (See Appendix)

The Baltimore Street block between North Centre and North Liberty Streets is devoted entirely to banking purposes. At 71-73 Baltimore Street is the bank building presently used by the First National Bank. (G-6) Designed by Bruce Price (1845-1903), noted late nineteenth-century architect and Cumberland native, the bank was built about 1893 for the Second National Bank. The building exhibits characteristics of both the Chateau and Romanesque Revival styles. Built of terra-cotta colored brick, the bank is 2½ stories tall and has brownstone trim and a tile roof. The Baltimore Street facade has a Romanesque doorway to the east and a semicircular bay window (also with a tile roof) to the west. The brownstone surround at the entrance features a floral corning and a seated lion on each of the pilasters. The bay window is composed of five leaded glass windows with round comes. Similar windows appear under the Romanesque arches of the upper level windows. A brick panel surrounded by carved brownstone also appears on the upper level. The original brownstone ground floor facade has been replaced with polished granite wainscoting. An exceptionally sympathetic addition was built to the east in the 1950's. The interior was completely renovated at the same time removing most original features. This building is one of the few individual architectural elements which is outstanding when not considered as part of the total fabric. As the work of Bruce Price, it is also significant.<sup>9</sup>

The Liberty Trust Bank building in the eastern part of the same block was designed by architect Wright Butler in 1901 for the Third National Bank. The red brick structure with stone trim is six stories tall--Cumberland's first attempt at a "skyscraper." The street level has a stone watertable and a series of large windows and a classical doorway. The upper story windows are 1/1 double hung wooden sash windows which are arranged in single and multiple groupings. Flat bricks and rusticated belt courses ornament the window groupings for each floor. The sixth floor is crowned with the typical Butler dropped cornice. The oculus openings above the cornice are also familiar Butler elements. Thomas and Williams in their History of Allegany County refer to the building as the "largest and most convenient bank in the state outside Baltimore." The present entrance is a result of a 1920 remodeling by Fred Ley. At that time the original

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## Statement of Significance Continued

rounded corner entry was replaced with a square corner and central entrance. Architect Wright Butler had his office in this building for many years.<sup>10</sup> (G-7) (See Appendix)

The other surviving Italianate commercial building on Baltimore Street is located on the southeast corner of Centre Street. The building is believed to have been built in the early 1870's by Michael Kerney. In the 1890's two banks, sharing the same trustees, set up adjacent banking offices in this building. The Citizens Savings Bank handled the financial affairs of many Cumberlanders while the German Savings Bank attracted the substantial German community until anti-German sentiment in the early twentieth century caused a disintegration of this district and tightknit ethnic group. The three-story, brick building extends five bays along Baltimore Street and twelve bays along Centre Street. The upper level windows have ornate segmental arched label molds (probably cast iron). The dentilled cornice and the star medallions below the cornice are distinctive features. The first floor, of course, has been covered with ceramic and metal tiles destroying the original ornate detailing similar to the existing upper level trim.<sup>11</sup> (G-8) (See Appendix) To the east is a three-story, two-bay wide, bracketed, shed-roofed commercial building at 107 Baltimore Street. (G-8) The Little Building at 113 Baltimore Street was designed by architect George Sansbury in 1904. The use of polychromatic color and Romanesque arches on the third floor are distinctive. (G-8) Adjoining it to the east is a late nineteenth century building with Romanesque influence and bracketed cornice. It is known as the Wertheimer Building after the Wertheimer brothers who operated a theatre in the building between 1914 and 1918. A photo of the building during its theatre days shows the egg and dart motif in low relief and molillions at the storefront. The composition also included pilasters and low windows and a door at the mezzanine level over the entry and ticket booth.<sup>12</sup> (G-8) Other historical buildings in the block include the former YMCA Building--the brick and rusticated stone building built in 1893 and the 1912 neo-classical First National Bank building. (G-9)

A number of recently constructed "parklets" interrupt the otherwise pleasant streetscape. Incompatible in scale, texture, material, and color, these overly built spaces are intrusions in the historic environment.

This building at 38 Baltimore Street is one of a number of Romanesque-influenced buildings on Baltimore Street. Although smaller in scale, it is a fine example of this popular commercial style. Remodeled by architect George Sansbury and builder James C. Powell for Orville and Shisey Drugstore in 1911, this building has since undergone other renovations. Originally this building had leaded glass insets on the first floor. The first floor was used in the early twentieth century as a drugstore with a walk-up entry through the store for the second floor.<sup>13</sup> (G-10)

On the north side of Baltimore Street in the block between Mechanic and Liberty Streets, the Gross Brothers Building at 42-46 Baltimore Street is a three-story, brick building with three large two-story windows on the second and third floors. Piers with stone capitals in a leaf motif separate the arches. The upper level windows have been replaced with large plywood panels. The cornice, however, remains an unchanged heavy bracketed one with four semi-circular pendants. Two medallions with nearly human faces ornament the brick wall between

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## Statement of Significance Continued

the third story arches. Four supporting piers each having a lion's head sculpture above the street level are hidden by a modern store front incompatible with the nineteenth-century character of this building and much of the rest of the street.

According to local resident and historian Herman Miller, this building was built as a department store for the Gross Brothers probably before 1900. In 1902 local architect J. S. Seibert remodeled the building, adding an open front and changing the floor plan. Herman Miller remembers that this building was remodeled in the 1920's when Harrison's Department Store became the occupant. A photograph from his collection shows the Gross Brothers building c. 1925 with slender cast iron columns, an awning, and plate glass at the ground level. A metal marquis was suspended from the building with a chain extending over the sidewalk. Such marquees were popular in Cumberland in the 1920's. This Romanesque influenced commercial building is an important architectural element on historic Baltimore Street.<sup>14</sup> (See Appendix) (G-10)

The Walsh-Clark-Keating Building at 48-52 Baltimore Street on the north side of the block between Mechanic and Liberty Streets is a late nineteenth century four-story brick structure with a rusticated Romanesque entranceway. The second and third floor windows are divided into groups of three with single windows above the arched entranceway. Fourteen circular windows mark the fourth floor; a brick cornice crowns the building. The black tile covering the ground floor is probably the only major facade change. Built for Walsh in 1894, this building later housed the furniture emporium of Walter B. Clark who after his term as city tax collector, operated one of the largest such emporiums in Western Maryland.<sup>15</sup> (G-10)

The Fort Cumberland Hotel at the northwest corner of Baltimore and North Liberty Streets is a six-story, fireproof brick hotel built in 1917. Designed and built by Fred Webber, of Philadelphia, it was built at over a cost of \$250,000. (G-10) The main entrance covered with a marquee is on the Liberty Street side. Several commercial fronts line the Baltimore Street facade. The classically inspired stone ornamentation and the belt courses between the fifth and sixth floors are interesting features. Especially distinctive, however, are the dentilled, stone cornice and the frieze of carved panels and triglyphs. Clusters of flowers drop from the triglyphs flanking the upper level windows. The carved panels contain a design of floral arrangements and mermaids. This hotel, the Algonquin Hotel--also on Baltimore Street (See District H), the Brunswick Hotel on the Queen City Pavement and the York Hotel on Henderson Avenue (See District D), are the only remaining hotels erected during the grand railroad era when Cumberland was a major transportation center.<sup>16</sup> (See Appendix)

The block between North Centre and North Liberty Streets, although badly eroded, was once a fine architectural grouping. The historic character, however, is still evident. It consists of an incompatible parklet on the northeast corner and four fine late nineteenth and early twentieth-century commercial buildings. (G-11)

The three-story masonry construction commercial structure at 76 Baltimore Street is near the middle of the block formed by Liberty and Centre Streets.



## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## Statement of Significance Continued

The classical marble facade is marred by the insensitive and incompatible modern shop front on the ground level. A recessed arch with a Corinthian keystone mark the second level; and a dentilled cornice and closed roof balustrade top the building. Squeezed between its two neighbors--other contemporary commercial buildings--this former bank building is an important element in the downtown streetscape. The interior of the first floor is combined with that of the building to the west as a store room.<sup>17</sup> (G-12) Designed by Cumberland's popular local architect Wright Butler, the old Dime Savings Bank building is, because of its scale, a one-of-a kind piece of early twentieth-century commercial architecture. One of Butler's more classical facades, this building also has some of his familiar trademarks--the dropped cornice, and recessed and circular motifs. Built in 1911 at a cost of over \$7100, this miniature bank building is one of a number of Cumberland buildings which portray the architectural character of Wright Butler.

The building built on the east side of the Dime Savings Bank at 80-84 Baltimore Street was completed just prior to the construction of the bank. The building designed by George Sansbury for the Washington Lunchroom and Hotel was built in 1911. (G-13) It is a three-story brick structure with white glazed brick trim. Two modern shop fronts have damaged the street level front. The western half of the building retains its original street number 84 carved into the stone facing. The original shopfront, part of which remains, has a fluted cornice decorated with molding in an egg-and-dart motif. The second and third floors have two sets of windows; the windows on the third floor are arched giving the entire upper level the appearance of a double arcade. Belt courses extend across the facade at the base of the second story windows and at the beginning of the arches on the third floor. These arches have ornamental surrounds with scroll keystones. The bracketed cornice of glazed brick is topped with a base relief sculptured panel ornamented in a swag and wreath motif. Many cracks appear on the glazed brick surfaces. This building was a theatrical hotel and lunchroom used primarily by show people performing at the Academy of Music in the Old City Hall (destroyed by fire) one block to the north.<sup>18</sup> (See Appendix)

Two of the finest commercial buildings in the City of Cumberland appear on the north side of Baltimore Street in the block between Centre and George Streets. At 118 Baltimore Street is the department store architect J. S. Seibert, a graduate of the civil engineering department at Lehigh University, designed for the Rosenbaum family in 1899. This building is the only known, major example of Seibert's work remaining in Cumberland. This architect was active in Cumberland in the late 1890's and first few years of the twentieth century. The Rosenbaum Building is three-stories tall and shows considerable Romanesque influence. The street facade has three large arcades with three-sided oriels in the upper levels and a modern store front at the street. The arcades have stone surrounds and carvings of human-like heads on the keystones. The structure is topped with a heavy bracketed cornice with a lion's head sculpture centered above each bracket.<sup>19</sup> (G-14)

The Schwarzenbach Building to the east at 128 Baltimore Street was designed by local architect Wright Butler for George Schwarzenbach in 1911.<sup>20</sup> (G-13) Although there are many similarities in detailing between this and other

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## Statement of Significance Continued

Butler buildings, the Schwarzenbach Building has a more definite association with Beaux Arts classicism. The bold mansard roof, the sculptured brackets, and the segmentally, pedimented dormers are elements especially influenced by the popular style which originated in France. Still used by the Schwarzenbach Store, this Wright Butler building is one of the most important architectural resources in the city, has definite and continuous historical associations, and is an important visual landmark. (See Appendix) (G-14)

The streets adjacent to Baltimore Street are also significant. One of the most delightful buildings in the downtown area occurs at 16 North Liberty Street. Originally designed by architect J. S. Seibert for J. Philip Roman in 1901, the building was remodeled by George Sansbury in 1924.<sup>21</sup> The two-story high, two-bay wide brick building has a heavily bracketed cornice topped with a balustrade. The most notable feature is the second floor, three-sided oriel contained within a large keystone arch. Within the arch is the date 1902 in art nouveau fashion. The oriel has leaded glass transoms, a sculptured ornamental lion's head, and a riveted metal (possibly tin) base. The building retains its storefront cornice. (G-15)

A block of four buildings stands on the opposite side of the street. The two buildings in the southern half of the block date from the mid nineteenth century although they have been altered. Adjacent to them at 17 North Liberty is the 1911 building George Sansbury designed for the Cumberland Office and Supply Company.<sup>22</sup> Still used by this company, this building has undergone little change. It retains its original and appropriate sign set in the stained glass below the storefront cornice. Brick pilasters accentuate the corners of this three-story brick building. The false facade, blind brick detailing, and dropped cornice are typical of early twentieth century commercial architecture in Cumberland. Next door at 19-21 North Liberty Street is a typical turn-of-the-century commercial building with the popular shed roof and bracketed cornice. The block is thoroughly representative of Cumberlands commercial architecture in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (G-16)

Built in 1914, the building at 49 North Liberty Street is a very characteristic commercial building and integral part of the urban streetscape of Liberty Street. This four-story, shed-roofed, brick building is a characteristic early twentieth-century commercial building in downtown Cumberland. The entablature and brick label molds on the fourth floor are notable features. A recent renovation resulted in the alteration of the large commercial windows to accommodate standard smaller size windows and dropped ceiling. The ground level storefront was also remodeled with the addition of an incompatible mansard roof. (G-17)

The Commercial Savings Bank moved from its Baltimore Street location in the McCleave Building to this address in 1907 and bought and remodeled the building at 55 North Liberty Street which was already extant. Damaged in the City Hall fire of 1909 the two-story structure was enlarged to three. The strong classical feeling of the ground level is indicative of financial institutions of this period. The upper stories, however, with their rusticated stone lintels and rounded windows is characteristic of Cumberland's local commercial style and is similar to other buildings designed by the prolific local

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## Statement of Significance Continued

architect Wright Butler. The original architect of the bank is not known but Butler did design the 1907 alteration. The marble front was added in 1915.<sup>23</sup> (G-17) (See Appendix)

North Centre Street also has a number of pleasant and characteristic commercial buildings. The recently renovated building at 37 North Centre Street bears a striking resemblance to the known works of popular local architect Wright Butler although there is no known record linking the architect to the building. The dropped, dentilled cornice, arched windows, stone keystones, belt courses, stone lintels and sills, and three-sided second floor oriel are familiar Butler details. The three-story brick building in its renovated state is a handsome and integral building in the downtown district. (G-18)

Across the street at 58 North Centre Street is the Stein-Clark Building. Designed by Wright Butler for Louis Stein's undertaking establishment in 1903, the building is another example of the commercial work of the local architect. Its stone belt courses and keystones are similar to those at 37 North Centre. The building contains other Butler elements--the oculus windows above the heavy dropped cornice and the blind brick detailing between the second and third floors. The three-story, brick building, like most in the downtown section, has an altered first floor facade. (G-19)

One of Stein's rivals, the Cumberland Furniture and Coffin Company, used the adjacent building at 54 North Centre Street now known as the Workmeister building. Stein bought out the stock of the Cumberland Furniture and Coffin Company. A late nineteenth century building, this three-story, brick building probably dates from the 1890's. An 1897 newspaper clipping from The Independent carries a sketch of the building in an add for the Cumberland Furniture and Coffin Company billed as the "only morgue in the state outside Baltimore."<sup>25</sup> The first floor has been altered but the upper stories retain their original appearance. The building with its corbelled brick arches and arched windows was influenced by the Romanesque style although the building details are more slender and lighter than authentic Romanesque buildings. The blind arcade in the ½ story of the false facade is similar to those in other buildings known to be the work of Wright Butler. (G-19)

Also included in the northern part of the district are the city-owned buildings--the Public Safety Building, City Hall, and the Bell Tower Building--which are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (See Appendix)

The area south of Baltimore Street is generally less cohesive than the northern part of the district but includes enough significant buildings that it is worthy of inclusion in the district. The B'eer Chayim Temple on South Centre Street is one of these buildings. One of several German congregations to build places of worship in the mid-nineteenth century, the Jewish people of Cumberland built the temple between 1865 and 1866. John B. Walton, the earliest known builder in Cumberland, was the builder.<sup>26</sup> Using a Greek temple form, the building employs such typical features as brick pilasters, and a molitioned pediment. Less likely features are the brick label molds above the windows and the superb stained glass windows portraying symbols of the Hebraic tradition.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## Statement of Significance Continued

The entry vestibule is an early twentieth century addition believed to have been designed by local architect George Sansbury. Unfortunately this temple has been painted an inappropriate shade of green. Built of the characteristic nineteenth century brick, the building may very well have been painted red originally. (G-20)

To the south of the temple is the 2½ story Queen Anne style house architect Wright Butler designed for local physician Dr. Twigg in 1901.<sup>27</sup> The shingled tower and roof, multiplicity of roof angles, and irregular massing of the building are characteristic of this turn-of-the-century style. The irregularity allowed this combination office-residence building to serve both purposes within one unified form. Directly south is a typical two-story, brick, bracketed shed-roofed building. It has been inappropriately modernized, however, by a mansard shop front, and a blocking of part of the second floor windows to facilitate a dropped ceiling and standard modern sized windows. (G-21)

Across the street at 101 South Centre Street is one of the most delightful buildings designed by George Sansbury. A narrow, two-story, gray brick building, with a tile roof, modillioned cornice, entrance marquee, and rounded corner with its stamped metal inset, this charming structure is thoroughly eclectic. Designed by Sansbury for Dr. William L. Burns in 1921, this building is one of the best examples of the known works of Sansbury.<sup>28</sup> The Cumberland Urban Renewal Agency, the previous owner of the property, fortunately, was able to preserve the building in its nearly original condition, and to find suitable owners for this important building which was once scheduled for demolition. (G-22) (See Appendix) Another important building in the southern part of the district is the neo-classical style Post Office Building designed by local architect Holt Hitchins and built in 1932. (G-23) (See Appendix)

The Western Maryland Railway Station remains the sole surviving passenger depot in Cumberland, which was a major transportation center in the nineteenth- and twentieth-centuries. The Western Maryland Railroad received its charter in 1852 and fifty years later reorganized under the control of the Gould railroad interests. Reaching Cumberland in 1906, the Western Maryland Railroad made use of the city's direct connections with Pittsburgh and Chicago through the New York Central. In 1923 the Western Maryland Railroad obtained a right of way through the Narrows to make use of an easier grade around the mountains.

During the first half of the twentieth century, Cumberland was the major stop on the Western Maryland system between Chicago and Baltimore. The location of the station on the south side of Baltimore Street stimulated a change in land use on South Mechanic, Centre and Liberty Streets from primarily residential to mixed land use. Many saloons and livery stations, no longer extant, grew up in this prime location near the station. A very solid commercial building, the Western Maryland Station presents an opportunity for such adaptive uses as a transportation museum or cultural facility.

The Western Maryland Railway Station, located at the southern end of Canal Street on the east bank of Will's Creek, on the site of the C & O Canal, is a straightforward early twentieth-century building. Nine bays long and three bays wide, the red brick building is encircled by a massive modillioned cornice.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## Statement of Significance Continued

Below the cornice is a band of decorative brick; brick disks regularly interrupt the bay defining each bay. The hipped-roof station with dormers is two-and-a-half stories tall on the west facade and three on the east.

Segmentally arched recessed panels extend from ground to top stories, defining each bay. Each first floor panel has a rectangular three-part window with three transoms. The top story three-part windows have transoms which follow the segmentally arched panel. The three bay facades have similar shaped, two-part windows in each bay. A one-story porch runs along the west facade and extends out toward the tracks. (G-24) (See Appendix)

The Downtown/Baltimore Street District is of major significance to the Western Maryland region. As the major commercial center for the area for both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the central business district has undergone continual change and growth and is representative of most nineteenth and twentieth-century commercial styles of architecture. Its buildings designed by nationally known architect Bruce Price and local architects Wright Butler, George Sansbury, and J. S. Seibert are arranged in tight groupings which create superb streetscapes. There are surprisingly few intrusions (with the exception of modern first-floor shop fronts) in this district which is bounded by gaps, parking lots, and incompatible modern buildings.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Continued

4. Ibid and interview city citizen liaison Herman J. Miller, Spring, 1976.
5. Photographic collection of Herman J. Miller and City of Cumberland Building Permit issued to Lena J. Kauffman, July 21, 1931.
6. Interview with citizen liaison Herman J. Miller, Spring, 1976.
7. Cumberland Daily News, August 22, 1929 and interview with citizen liaison Herman J. Miller, Spring, 1976.
8. Interview with citizen liaison Herman J. Miller, Spring, 1976.
9. Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet, AI-IV-013.
10. Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, 1924; City of Cumberland Building Permit #5214; interview with citizen liaison Herman, J. Miller, Spring, 1976.
11. Interview with citizen liaison Herman J. Miller, Spring, 1976 and photographic collection of Herman J. Miller.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. City of Cumberland Building Permit #325.
15. Interview with citizen liaison Herman J. Miller, Spring, 1976.
16. City of Cumberland Building Permit #4352.
17. Ibid, #2891.
18. Cumberland Daily News, May 27, 1911 and photograph from the George Sansbury scrapbook in the photographic collection of Herman J. Miller.
19. Interview with citizen liaison Herman J. Miller, and collection of Herman J. Miller.
20. City of Cumberland Building Permit #3068.
21. City of Cumberland, Building Permits #255 and #7281.
22. Ibid, #1975.
23. Ibid, #2651 and #4127.
24. Ibid, #625.
25. Collection of Herman J. Miller.
26. J. William Hunt, "Across the Desk," Cumberland Sunday Times, May 31, 1953.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Continued

27. City of Cumberland, Building Permit #105.

28. Ibid, #5826.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

## Verbal Boundary Description Continued

south--the southern edge of Harrison Street from George Street to North Mechanic Street and along the northern edge of the National Highway: U. S. Route 48, to Will's Creek.

east--the eastern edge of George Street to the southern edge of Harrison Street.

west--Will's Creek to the north side of Baltimore Street from Will's Creek to the intersection of North Mechanic Street and from this point along the rear property lines on the north side of Baltimore Street and the west side of Liberty Street to the rear property lines of the Public Safety Building, Central Fire House #1, and the Bell Tower Building to the south side of Bedford Street.



The Downtown Baltimore Street district includes the following streets with inclusive street numbers: 19-153 Baltimore Street; 105-160 Bedford Street; 15 Canal Street; City Hall Plaza--City Hall, Bell Tower Building, Public Safety Building; 9-64 Centre Street, North; 7-123 Centre Street, South; 15-215 George Street; 7-49 Liberty Street, North; 15-120 Liberty Street, South; and 10-20 Mechanic Street, South.

DOWNTOWN/BALTIMORE STREET DISTRICT

Documentation and descriptions from previous architectural surveys of buildings appear in the attached appendix:

Baltimore StreetMaryland Historical Trust Code

29-33	A1-IV-046
42-46	A1-IV-033
47	A1-IV-069
48-52	A1-IV-045
57-59	A1-IV-068
61	A1-IV-067
63-69	A1-IV-066
71-73	A1-IV-013
74-78	A1-IV-060
80-84	A1-IV-061
Fort Cumberland Hotel	A1-IV-059
83	A1-IV-065
101-105	A1-IV-070
107-109	A1-IV-071
110	A1-IV-021
118-124	A1-IV-062
128-132	A1-IV-063

Canal Street

Western Maryland Railway Station	A1-IV-027
Site of the Western Terminus of the C & O Canal	A1-IV-048

Centre Street, South

101	A1-IV-044
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City Hall Plaza

City Hall	A1-IV-030
Bell Tower Building	A1-IV-014
Public Safety Building	A1-IV-015

Liberty Street, North

7-15	A1-IV-029
10	A1-IV-064
55	A1-IV-037

Mechanic Street, North

36  
66-72  
14-20

A1-IV-035  
A1-IV-036  
A1-IV-032

Pershing Street

U. S. Post Office

A1-IV-031

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC SURVEY  
CITY OF CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND  
DISTRICT DIGEST AND SUPPLEMENT

LAND AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATES  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
1976

AL-IV-A-144

The following pages contain documented information about representative buildings within the district. This information was useful in determining ages of buildings and in identifying the architects and builders who were active within the district in certain periods. A notation of M1858 is the earliest documentation contained in the digest. Although a number of the buildings existed prior to 1858--some as early as 1790. Pre-1858 is a convenient early date to use for the remaining log, Federal, and Greek Revival style buildings built in Cumberland before the Civil War. These buildings as a group are the major surviving physical record of Cumberland's early history. A notation of M1875 indicates that a building was constructed between 1858 and 1875.

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# DIGEST KEY

*	Alteration, addition
**	Interim
#	City of Cumberland Building Permit
M	Map
CEM	City Engineering Map
HJM	Herman J. Miller
DN	Cumberland Daily News
ET	Cumberland Evening Times
ph. col.	Photographic collection
clip.	Undated newspaper clipping
T&W	Thomas & Williams, <u>History of Allegany County</u>
misc.	Several sources, common knowledge, tradition

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REPRESENTATIVE BUILDINGS--DISTRICT G: DOWNTOWN/BALTIMORE STREET

HOUSE #	SUPPLIER OF PLANS	BUILDER	ORIGINAL OWNER	SOURCE	DATE
<u>BALTIMORE STREET</u>					
25	Frank H. Cailoway			HJM	1898
29-33				M1858	
37-45				HJM ph.col.	c1890
Add'n		James C. Powell	Henry Janmer	#2610	1910
Add'n	Harry Campbell		Henry Janmer	#4601	1919
38					c1890
Alter.	George Sansbury *	James C. Powell	Orville & Shirey**	#2843	1911
42-46			Gross Brothers	HJM	c1890
Alter.	J. S. Seibert		Gross Brothers	#325	1902
47			Holzshu (?)	HJM	
Alter.			Frederick Piano Store	DN2/18/1919	1919
48-52				DN1894clip.	1894
49-53	Hodgens & Hills	George Hazelwood	Grace Fisher; Lena Kauf-		1931
			man	ALIV012	
53-69			McCleave (?)	M1875	
61	George Sansbury*		Lazarus Family	DN8/22/1929	1929
60-68	Fred Webber (Philadelphia, Pa.)	Fred Webber	Fort Cumberland Hotel	#4352	1916
71-73	Bruce Price		2nd National Bank	ALIV013	c1893
74				HJM	c1900
76	Wright Butler	Aaron May	Dime Savings Bank	#2891	1911
80-84	George Sansbury		Washington Lunchroom	DN5/27/'11	1911
81	Wright Butler	A. B. Allen	Liberty Trust	#1904	1907
Alter.	Fred T. Ley	Fred T. Ley	Liberty Trust	#5214	1920
86			Hotzman Pharmacy	DNSE1908	c.1894
101-105			Michael Kerney	HJM	c1870
				M1875	
110			McCrorry's	ALIV021	1939
111-113	George Sansbury			HJM	1904
115				HJM	c1895
116	J. S. Seibert		Rosenbaum's	HJM	1899
Alter.		W. J. Morley	Rosenbaum's	#6759	1923
Alter	George Sansbury		Rosenbaum's	#3573	1913
128-132	Wright Butler	S.W. Wise	Schwarzenbach's Store	#3068	1911
145			YMCA	HJM	1893

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HOUSE#	SUPPLIER OF PLANS	BUILDER	ORIGINAL OWNER	SOURCE	DATE
124	George Sansbury	George Bowman	Mary M. Boor	#2770	1910
126-128			Andrew Stegmaier	#2837	1911
138	W. T. Taylor	W. T. Taylor	H. W. Doughtrey	#2363	1908
154		Darr & Cookerly	John F. Stark	#7396	1924
218					

CENTRE STREET, NORTH

58	Wright Butler	John McLaughlin	Louis Stein	#625	1093
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CENTRE STREET, SOUTH

100		John Walton	Baair Cheim Temple	WH5/31/1953	1866
101	George Sansbury	Aaron May	Dr. William L. Burns	#5826	1921
110	Wright Butler	Silas Wise	Dr. Twigg	#185	1901
210	John Vandegrift	John Vandegrift	State of Maryland	#7723	1925

LIBERTY STREET, NORTH

16	J. S. Seibert		J. Philip Roman	#255	1901
Alter	George Sansbury*	John Vandegrift	Clarence Litzerberg	#7281	1924
17	George Sansbury	James C. Powell	Cumberland Office & Supply Co.	#3084	1911
35	Wright Butler	J. McLaughlin	Cumberland Improvement	#1975	1907
55	Wright Butler*	Aaron May	Commercial Savings Bank	#2651	1910
Alter.	Alfred Leach* (Balimore, Md.)	W. J. Morley	Commercial Savings Bank	#4127	1915

MECHANIC STREET, SOUTH

12	Wright Butler		Joseph Klawahn	#3177	1912
2613	Wright Butler	Silas Wise	Peter Wright	#2613	1910

UNION STREET

126-128				M1858	
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DISTRICT G--DOWNTOWN/BALTIMORE STREET  
LIST OF 35 MM. COLOR SLIDES  
AND 5" X 7" BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

G-1 29-33 Baltimore St.  
G-2 Coyle Building, Baltimore St.  
G-3 Embassy Theatre Building, 51 Baltimore St.  
G-4 McCleave Building, 61-69 Baltimore St.  
G-4 McCleave Block, 53-69 Baltimore St.  
G-5 61 Baltimore St.  
G-6 71-73 Baltimore St.  
G-7 81 Baltimore St.  
G-8 101-117 Baltimore St.  
G-9 153 Baltimore St.  
G-10 38-68 Baltimore St.  
G-11 72-86 Baltimore St.  
G-12 72-74 Baltimore St.  
G-13 80-84 Baltimore St.  
G-14 118-128 Baltimore St.  
G-15 16 N. Liberty St.  
G-16 19-21 N. Liberty St.  
G-17 49-55 N. Liberty St.  
G-18 37 N. Centre St.  
G-19 54-58 N. Centre St.  
G-20 100 S. Centre St.  
G-21 110 S. Centre St.  
-22 101 S. Centre St.  
G-23 3 Pershing St.